



ATTORNEY DOCKET: 40526.04501
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent application of:
Stephen B. Maguire
Serial No.: 09/883,837
Filed: June 18, 2001
For: LOW PRESSURE DRYER

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AMENDMENT

Sir:

Introductory Comments

This is submitted in response to an official action bearing a mailing date of 10 March 2004 in which the examiner ruled that claims 1 through 4, 6, 10, 19 through 22 and 25 are withdrawn from consideration, allowed claims 18, 23, 24 and 26 through 42 but rejected claims 5, 7 through 9 and 11 through 17. Additionally, the examiner rejected applicant's arguments against the outstanding restriction requirement, noted that certain documents submitted with the information disclosure statements filed 6 December 2001 and 18 June 2001 were missing and set

forth rejections of claims 5, 7 and 8 under 35 USC 102 and claims 9 and 11 through 17 under 35 USC 103.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 18, 23, 24 and 26 through 42.

Applicant traverses the restriction requirement and again requests reconsideration of the same. Applicant specifically requests reinstatement into the instant application and consideration on the merits of claims 1 through 4, 6, 10, 19 through 22 and 25.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 5, 7 and 8 made under 35 USC 102 and the rejection of claims 9 and 11 through 17 made under 35 USC 103 and requests reconsideration of the same.

Certain of the claims have been amended herein to respond to the examiner's rejection.

The information disclosure statements to which the examiner referred and from which apparently documents have been misplaced in the course of handling in the United States Patent and Trademark Office will be resubmitted separately and promptly, together with copies of all of the documents referred to therein including copies of the documents that failed to reach the examiner's offices. Applicant regrets any inconvenience caused by this.